

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing a comparative listing of providers of ~~an~~ a single item, said method comprising the steps of:

requesting a term of offer related to said single item;

obtaining said requested term of offer for said single item from at least one product/service provider;

adjusting, in response to obtaining said requested term of offer for said single item, a second term of offer for said single item from a host provider; and

presenting said requested term of offer for said single item obtained from said at least one product/service provider and said adjusted second term of offer from said host provider to a data requestor device over a communications link.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of requesting said term of offer for said single item is in response to a user initiated request.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of requesting said term of offer is enabled by said data requestor device.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said data requestor device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code scanner, a portable processor, a wireless telecommunication device, a computer, an information appliance, and a hand-held computing device.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link comprises

a network of computers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said network of computers is the Internet.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of requesting said term of offer for said single item is selected from the group consisting of requesting the price of said single item, requesting the delivery charge of said single item, requesting the description of said single item, requesting the finance charge of said single item, requesting the delivery schedule of said single item, and requesting data pertaining to the quality of said single item.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining said requested term of offer from said at least one product/service provider includes obtaining said requested term of offer from a database managed by said at least one product/service provider.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining said requested term of offer from said at least one product/service provider includes obtaining said requested term from a database managed by said host provider or by way of a system controlled by said host provider.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting said second term of offer for said single item comprises determining if said host provider itself offers said single item.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting said second term of offer for said single item comprises determining if said host provider can obtain said single item from another provider of said single item.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting

said second term of offer for said single item comprises varying said second term of offer of said single item to include a minimum price margin for said host provider.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting said second term of offer for said single item from said host provider comprises varying the terms of offer of said single item based on a pricing model.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said pricing model includes varying said second term of offer for said single item based on said requested term of offer as obtained from said at least one product/service provider.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said pricing model includes varying said second term of offer of said single item based on a propensity of a user to purchase said single item.

16 - 29. (Canceled)